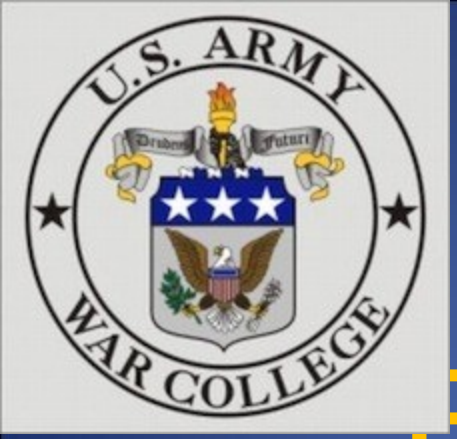


USAWC Effective Writing Seminar

Lesson One: Organization (2)

Dr. Tom Stewart

June 2013

“I'm not a very good writer, but I'm an excellent rewriter.”

--James Michener

Effective Writing Seminar Overview

- Lesson 1—Organization
- Lesson 2—Analyze the Question
- Lesson 3—Content

Purposes of Writing

- Research
- Analysis
- Expository
- Persuasive

Organizing Your Paper

- Before you start
  - THINK
  - Develop an outline
  - The Five Paragraph Essay (HINT: It’s not always five paragraphs)

Organizing Your Paper

- INTRODUCTION
- BODY
- CONCLUSION

Organizing Your Paper

- Thesis statement
- Supporting paragraphs w/topic sentences
- Conclusion based on information established in paper

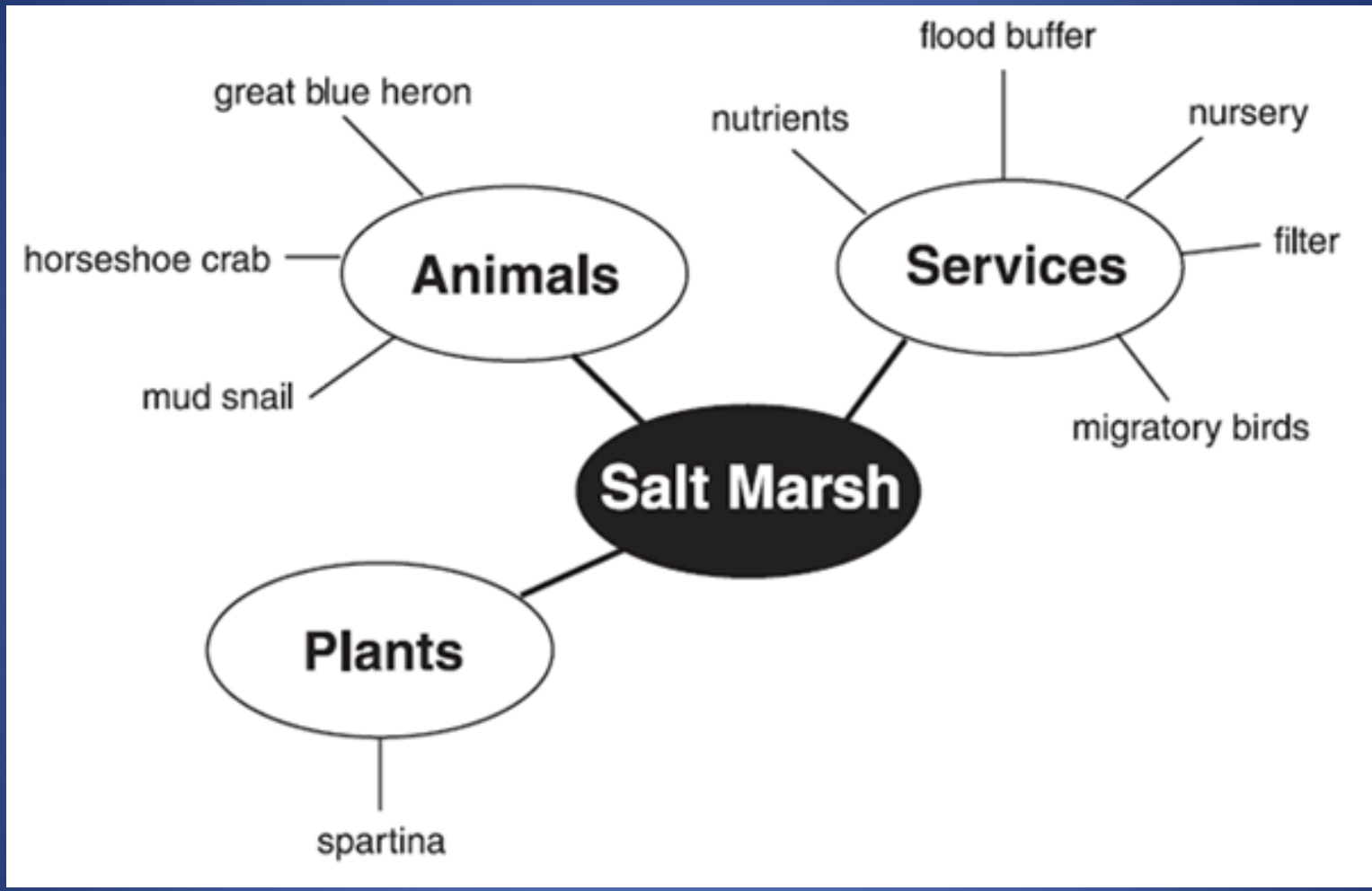
Organizing Your Paper

- At graduate level, DON’T SUMMARIZE. DO ANALYZE.

Getting Started: Exploring Ideas

- Brainstorming
- Freewriting
- Looping
- Clustering
- Ask Questions

» From *The Everyday Writer*, Andrea A. Lunsford


flood buffer
great blue heron
nutrients
nursery
horseshoe crab
Animals
Services
filter
mud snail
migratory birds
Salt Marsh
Plants
spartina

Steps of the Writing Process

1. Brainstorming
2. Freewrite
3. Outlining
4. Drafting
5. Revising
6. Editing/Proofreading
7. Publishing

Getting Started: Drafting

- Establish a Working Thesis
- Gather information to support your thesis
- Write out a plan
- Outlines
- Write out a draft

» From *The Everyday Writer*, Andrea A. Lunsford

Active Voice vs. Passive Voice

Active Voice vs. Passive Voice

1. ACTIVE: The boy walked up the stairs.

Active Voice vs. Passive Voice

1. ACTIVE: The boy walked up the stairs.
2. PASSIVE: The stairs were walked up by the boy.

Active Voice vs. Passive Voice

- The case for active voice

Active Voice vs. Passive Voice

- The case for passive voice

Active Voice vs. Passive Voice

- What the War College wants: ACTIVE VOICE

Revising and Editing

Exercise 1-Sentence Combining

1. Jackie Robinson became the first African-American to play major-league baseball. This happened in 1947.
2. Robinson faced severe racial prejudice. The prejudice was from fans. The prejudice was from players. This happened during that first season.

– From *The Writer's Options* (Morenberg/ Sommers)

Your Work